

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

POPULATION

Sauvy, Alfred. *Théorie Générale de la Population. Vol. I. Économie et Population.* Paris, 1952. Presses Universitaires de France. Pp. 370. Price Frs.1,200.

It is of some importance, in reading this book, to realize that it is not intended to be a complete guide to population theory, but only deals with certain economic aspects of the subject. The headings of some of the chapters may serve to give an idea of the scope of the work. Thus: Animal Ecology; Maximum Population; Minimum Population; the Concept of the Optimum; Producers and Non-producers; Divers Activities; Distribution of Products; Agricultural Economy; Domination and Malthus; Industrial Economy; but it would be wearisome to continue with all twenty-five chapters. On the whole the book will probably appeal more to the economist than to the demographer, though there is no sharp dividing line between the two; and, in any case, there is to be a succeeding volume on the sociological aspects of population problems.

M. Sauvy, who is President of the Population Commission of the United Nations and Director of the Institut National d'Études Démographiques, is known to us as the author of an important section of the *Traité de Démographie*, edited by M. Adolphe Landry and published in 1945, when M. Sauvy was Assistant-Director of the "Statistique Générale de la France." He can, therefore, write on the subject with some authority.

Early in the Introduction the author stresses the importance of the writing of Cantillon, whose *Essai sur la nature de commerce en général* appeared in 1755. We can find a good deal about Cantillon in M. Landry's book, above mentioned. Cantillon wrote, "The number of the inhabitants of a State depends upon the means of subsistence," and, also, "Men multiply like

mice in a barn if they have unlimited means of subsistence." The author, like M. Landry, quotes Voltaire: "Le point principal n'est pas d'avoir du superflu en hommes, mais de rendre ce que nous en avons le moins malheureux qu'il est possible."

Among the possible objectives of the optimum, the author mentions the well-being of individuals; the increase of riches; full employment; power, such as military power; longevity; health; culture; knowledge; the total amount of well-being; the total amount of life, that is, the product of numbers by the average length of life; and, finally, simple number, that is, the maximum population. And, to all this, we might perhaps add, the greatest number of human beings who are morally, mentally and physically fit.

For the heading to Chapter XVIII, *Les Pays sous-développés; Marx ou Malthus?* the author has this quotation: "Il est bon de prêcher l'Évangile aux sauvages, parce que, dût-on ne leur apprendre qu'autant de christianisme qu'il leur faut pour marcher habillés, ce serait un grand bien pour les manufactures anglaises." It is a pity that the author allowed himself this jest. Let us consider the lives of those self-sacrificing men and women, such as David Livingstone, or Mary Slessor of Old Calabar, and a host of others, who, with the British administrators, rescued large areas of Africa from the brutal barbarities of primitive savagery. The negroes of Africa owe a deep debt of gratitude to those who freed them from the age-long tyranny of evil custom and ignorance.

As to the contents of this chapter, perhaps the most interesting in the book, the author puts the emergence of the problem as being chiefly due to the rapid increase of the populations. He remarks that, in the past sixteen years, the world population has increased by 13 per cent, whilst the increase of food supply was only 4 per cent. But perhaps these figures require some scrutiny, they can only be roughly approximate. He

adds that "Marx had not foreseen the reduction of mortality."

In the chapter on Migration he mentions the case of Brazil, where the population increases at the rate of 2 per cent per annum, and the rate of increase may be getting larger. Certainly, the increase of world population is a matter for the serious consideration of all of us: see the review of *Four Thousand Million Mouths* in the issue of this journal for January 1952.

C. F. ARDEN-CLOSE.

Frumkin, Gregory. *Population Changes in Europe since 1939: A Study of Population Changes in Europe during and since World War II as shown by the Balance Sheets of Twenty-four European Countries.* London, 1951. Allen & Unwin. Pp. 191. Price 30s.

THERE is a Preface by Professor J. B. Condliffe, of the University of California, in which he points out the great amount of labour which the writing of this book has involved and he remarks that it is a quarry for statisticians to dig in. The author worked for more than two years at this book, dealing with country by country, by means of "balance sheets." He acknowledges the help that he received from Professor D. Glass, amongst others. The small diagrams of birth- and death-rates, given early in the book, serve to show the disturbances caused by the two German wars, especially World War II. The present state of the populations of a great part of continental Europe is due to military losses, captivities, mass murders of civilians, and transfers of population, deaths of deportees, racial persecution, and a general unchaining of primitive brutality.

Amongst the detailed studies none is more interesting than the investigation of the population of Germany. Apparently the numbers in Western Germany had gone up from 44.8 million in 1946 to 47.6 million in September 1950. The Soviet Zone held about 17.5 million in the former year.

The author remarks that a characteristic feature of the last war was that the main loss

of population was not due to fighting, but to mass murder. "Only a small fraction of the Jews in countries under German control escaped the Nazi mass death factories."

We must not forget the large losses of the Soviet armies and civilians, thought by the author to be more than 17 million! But there is also to be reckoned the increase of the Soviet population by the absorption of alien territories, together with a considerable natural increase. And, on the other hand, we should remember "the eviction from the Slav countries of almost all German minorities." The author rightly remarks that, "Political conceptions . . . based on the principle of segregation together with narrow national planning in the economic field, are hardly consistent with the dream of a United Europe." Of course, Great Britain will always be ready to support the idea of a United Continental Europe, whilst our main concern, for ourselves, is the firm establishment and development of the humane, progressive, liberal-minded, freedom-loving, British Commonwealth.

C. F. ARDEN-CLOSE.

Hutchinson, Bertram. i, *Depopulation and Rural Life in the Solway Counties*, pp. 110; ii, *Depopulation and Rural Life in the Tweed Valley*, pp. 60; iii, *Depopulation and Rural Life in Aberdeen and Banff*, pp. 63; iv, *Depopulation and Rural Life in Scotland*, pp. 36. London, 1949. Central Office of Information. (N.S. 120, 120b, 120c, 120d.)

THESE four reports of an inquiry conducted by the National Survey for the Department of Health for Scotland shed further light on a problem which has been concerning Scotsmen for some years past. Rural depopulation is not a new phenomenon; it has been going on for several centuries at least, and would appear to be the almost inevitable accompaniment of a complex civilization and higher material standard of living. Concentration of the population in cities appears not only in older nations like Scotland but also in more recently settled